

and understanding yourself and others. She then used these skills to design and implement a series of Lenten workshops for the young children in her parish church. Kathleen Lomedico earned badges in artistic crafts and career exploration among others. After learning leadership skills through Girl Scouting, she served as the editor of her high school yearbook. As her Girl Scout Gold Award project she spent the past year organizing and leading a youth group for teens which meets every other week and a youth band which plays every Sunday night for her parish church. Ms. Lomedico wanted the young people in her parish to "feel a sense of home in the church." Both girls used skills they learned in Girl Scouting to help the church of their faith.

These two Senior Girl Scouts have earned my respect and admiration. I believe both girls should receive the public recognition due them for such significant services to their communities and their country.

TRIBUTE TO IYLENE WEISS

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 1997

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, a friend, former neighbor, and unique natural force died last month.

Iylene Weiss probably did more than any other individual to restore the largest wetland in Los Angeles County and its neighboring lagoon, known as Ballona.

At her funeral, Los Angeles City Councilwoman Ruth Galanter read a poem that she composed in two parts as Iylene's health failed. Ruth's poem is a special and deserved tribute and I ask unanimous consent to insert it in the RECORD at this point.

TRIBUTE TO IYLENE WEISS—BY COUNCILWOMAN
RUTH GALANTER

We cannot let more time go by without acknowledging that Iylene Weiss has pulled a clever trick.

She made a plan and made it stick that no marina'd grace this shore; no docks, no paving, and, what's more, that birds and worms and clams and such and wetlands plants that you can touch, would fill this water and these banks.

For this, Iylene, we give you thanks; we toast the docents and the kids, we toast the herons and the squids, we raise our cups not once, but twice, to cheer the work of Iylene Weiss.

FAREWELL

Peace be with you now, Iylene; the plants are coming nice and green, and all the folks who cheered you on, in realizing you'd be gone, and also moved by love for you, are doing work you used to do.

At last they've grasped that central theme, that people working as a team, have more successes and more fun, than leaving all the work to one.

And so, Iylene, it's safe to go; it's safe to trust that those you know, will carry on from where you've been; so peace be with you now, Iylene.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VASILIOS PYROVOLIKOS

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 1997

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and recognize Vasilios Pyrovolikos for his service during World War II in helping to contribute to the success of the Allied forces.

Mr. Pyrovolikos, like many other civilians, supported members of the Allied forces in the Mediterranean Theatre during World War II. His support and service has been noted in a certificate awarded to him by H.R. Alexander, Field Marshal and Supreme Allied Commander in the Mediterranean Theatre—1930–45—for help given to the sailors, soldiers, and airmen of the British Commonwealth of Nations, enabling them to escape from or evade capture by the enemy.

Mr. Pyrovolikos has also been honored by Col. Harry S. Aldrich, U.S. Army, commanding, for his service with the United States Army Forces in the Middle East under the supervision of maritime units of the Ministry of the Merchant Marine, Athens, Greece, for the period of June 1, 1944, to October 15, 1944, in appreciation for his contributions to the success of the Allied forces.

It is because of the dedication of people like Mr. Pyrovolikos that this country and our Allies, both then and now, enjoy the freedoms to which we are so accustomed. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor to salute Mr. Pyrovolikos for his courageous and devoted actions in the name of freedom.

SLOVAKIA DESERVES NATO MEMBERSHIP

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 11, 1997

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I believe in all fairness we should consider Slovakia with the other countries this body has determined to be eligible for NATO participation, both last year and this year.

The Slovak Republic has a democratically elected parliamentary government which has made marked political and economic progress. This country is a valuable participant in the Partnership for Peace and has contributed to peacekeeping operations in Bosnia and eastern Slavonia. The Slovak Republic is a peaceful, law-abiding country that has instituted judicial and free market reforms. When one takes the time to compare Slovakia's record of democratic and humanitarian achievements with those of other former Eastern Bloc countries, it is clear that Slovakia is equally deserving and meritorious of NATO membership.

My colleagues, I took the time to review Amnesty International's 1996 and 1997 reports and the U.S. State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1996 relating to human rights abuses. I examined Slovakia's record and also the record of some of the other nations which have been recommended for NATO membership, including the Czech Republic, Hungary, Lithuania, Poland, and Romania.

Slovakia had no recorded human rights abuses in these reports. The other countries had the following abuses documented.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Freedom of speech and press—so long as you don't talk bad about the Republic or the President.

Police abuses continue to be a problem.

In March 1995, a reporter was sentenced to 4 months imprisonment for calling the president "a traitor and a false prophet" in a newspaper article. (Amnesty)

In April 1995, prison officials beat to death a prisoner at Horni Slavkov prison. (Amnesty)

In June 1994, a Rom citizen was shot to death by police while being interrogated in detention at Horsovsy Tyn. (State Department)

Both the International Helsinki Federation and Human Rights Watch criticized the Government in 1996 and in 1997 for not curbing discrimination and skinhead violence against Romani citizens.

ROMANIA

The Ministry of Internal Affairs supervises the police—sporadic reports of human rights abuse by the police have continued.

At least 4 prisoners of conscience in 1995 and 1 in 1996. (Amnesty)

Many reports of torture and ill-treatment by police, resulting in 1 death in 1995 and 3 in 1996. (Amnesty)

In January 1996, Ion Axente was beaten by a police officer outside a bar in Pisu. After he fell to the ground, his face was sprayed with a paralyzing gas and he was kicked severely in the head. That night he went into a coma and he later died in June. (Amnesty)

In July 1995, the European Parliament passed a resolution calling on the Romanian Government to respect human rights and to end abuses by police and security forces.

Robert Radu was reportedly tortured during interrogation in Constanta in January 1995. Allegedly beaten with a club on the arms, legs, and head by a police officer and suffered a fractured shin. The officer reportedly threatened to kill him unless he said that he had injured himself falling down the stairs. (Amnesty)

In April 1995, Viorel Constantin was punched and kicked by police officers and civil guards outside a bar in Tandarei. Constanti suffered multiple bruising and scratches on the chest and the back, a cracked collar-bone and a ruptured ear drum. (Amnesty)

According to Human Rights Watch, Mircea-Muresul Mosor, a Rom from Comani, was shot and killed in May 1996 while in police custody in Valcele.

In July 1996, 3 Romani minors were held for 5 days on suspicion of theft of a watch and were all beaten, leaving severe bruises on the youths' arms and legs. (Both State Department and Amnesty)

Many other cases of deaths in custody or deaths reportedly due to police brutality have never been resolved.

Free speech is limited by prohibiting "defamation of the country."

In 1996, journalists Tana Ardeleanu and Sorin Rosca-Stanescu—convicted of "seditious libel" and sentenced to serve prison terms—printed an article that claimed former President Ion Iliescu had been recruited for KGB service while a student in Moscow. (State Department)

In 1996, Radu Mazare and Constantin Cumpăna—published an article about an illegal contract in the city council—sentenced to 7 month prison terms (although President Iliescu pardoned them). (State Department)

HUNGARY

There continues to be credible reports of police abuses and use of excessive force against suspects.